

AN EXPLANATION EXPECTED.

While in our editorial of last week on "The Reason of High Rents" we made no attempt to fix the burden of guilt for this outrageous condition under which the colored people of this city are laboring, it is evident from the letters received on the subject that our readers have no intention to be as lenient. The majority of the letters received commending our stand on the rent question do most emphatically demand that the burden of guilt be fixed. They justly demand that the colored real estate agents of this city come forward and explain their part in the present state of conditions. What have they done, is asked, other than aided in the opening of new houses for colored tenants? Have they at any time used their influence for reasonable rents, or have they, by silence or participation, encouraged the exorbitant and outrageous rentals under which colored New York must stumble forward, or perforce drop to the rear?

Such are the questions asked. And while the colored real estate agents are not now, nor ever were, accused by this paper of wittingly making conditions harder for their own people we think it will be the act of wisdom on their part to answer these questions put to them, through the editorial columns of this paper, by the people whom they serve. Perhaps the colored agents will themselves be only too glad to co-operate with the tenants for more reasonable rentals. Certainly it is up to them to do something and do it quick. Conditions are not improving. These are hard times, and our people, least of all, are in a position to make landlords millionaires and real estate agents landlords.

It is therefore highly obvious why colored people are intensely interested in the rent question. Nor need it take the gift of second sight for the least intelligent and progressive of the agents—colored and white—and landlords to recognise that the campaign launched last week by THE AMSTERDAM NEWS will not close until something definite and tangible is done to alleviate the present extreme conditions.

High rents are not the only thing complained of, either, for in spite of the fact that the colored tenant at present pays nearly twice as much rent as the outgoing white tenant the former still finds it unpleasantly hard to get the apartment decorated, and harder yet to get it decorated to suit. Why the real estate agents and landlords should think colored people would be satisfied to pay high rents and take anything, to boot, is incomprehensible. Yet this is the spirit in which most apartments are offered for rent. Oftentimes the landlord or agent obligingly essays the merry task of selecting flaming and disgusting colors in wall-paper for the "colored tenant." Red and gold seem to be the favorites. In most cases he has no trouble in convincing the pleasantly unimaginative and somewhat primitive flat-seeker that those two colors are just what were needed to make the home a thing of beauty and a joy forevermore. But when he—the agent or landlord—finds an intelligent tenant, who has some ideas of his own about suitable wall-paper he is duly shocked and indignant indeed that a tenant just moving in, and who may in a month or two be gone, should insist on choosing his own wall-paper. The idee-a! Yet satisfied tenants do not as a rule fly hither and thither in search of new apartments. And many an ignorant tenant onto whose gullible mind the flamingly papered flat has been foisted, soon finds himself impelled by what he knows not to seek other quarters, without exactly knowing why he is disgusted with the aurora borealis effect so kindly chosen for his benefit. Perhaps the colored and white real estate agents have had this experience. Perhaps they can explain many of the questions now perplexing the mind of the colored tenant. Perhaps they can tell us why—without again drawing on that threadbare and out-worn argument of "depreciation of property"—colored tenants are forced to pay nearly double the rent as white tenants for the same apartments and yet not receive half the attention that the white tenant got. Perhaps they can enlighten us on that foible of theirs—or is it really the landlord's?—that the

agent is the right party to choose suitable decorations for the people who pay the rents—and exorbitant, outrageous rents, at that!

At least, they can tell us what they have ever done, or intend doing, to alleviate rent conditions for the already rent-overburdened colored flat-dweller. We believe the colored agents imbued with race pride enough to guarantee their co-operation along lines seeking for a reduction in the high cost of living—the most important factor as affecting the colored people is the comparative small earnings of colored men and the high and unreasonable rents they are forced to pay.

Let but the colored agents lead. The white agents who also do business with colored tenants must then fall in line.

NEGRO EFFICIENCY MAKING ITSELF FELT

BIG INCREASE IN TAX RETURNS

Improved Racial Conditions in Georgia Discussed in The Savannah Morning News of September 22, 1915.—Some Pertinent Suggestions Offered

By R. R. Wright, Sr.
President Georgia State Industrial College.

The returns for the colored property owners of Chatham show for the year ending Sept. 1, 1915, an increase of \$736,361. Last year's returns showed \$1,160,839; this year, \$1,897,000. Of this sum, \$495,424 is the value of the country property; \$1,283,561 the value of city property. Think of it! \$736,361 increase in one year in the Negro holdings in Chatham!

Knowing them as well as I do, their struggles, their sacrifices and their low wages and their lack of wages, their sickness and their improvidences—I suspect that the major portion of this increase is due more to the industry and appreciation of the tax assessors than it is to the thrift or increase of our colored property owners. It is true, however, that the colored people of Savannah have developed and shown in the past few years a wonderful degree of providence and progress in things material.

Their ability to sacrifice and to save and husband their small earnings must be patent to all who notice the increase of home purchasers. The colored people are erecting a better class of houses in which to live than ever before in the city of Savannah. While Savannah is still behind other large cities in the number of homes owned, it is making splendid headway in the class and kind of nice homes. In view of these facts, the actual increase in their savings should not fall below a hundred thousand dollars for the year ending Sept. 1, 1915.

Many Lines of Business.

There has been also a slight improvement in the rent houses occupied by the colored people. Next to home buying, there has been an appreciable increase in business among the

colored people. Besides the two savings institutions doing a banking business, there has been projected another—the Savannah Savings and Real Estate Corporation—which promises well. There are five colored insurance companies represented in Savannah, one of these being a home concern. All are reported to be doing good business. One drug store, one dry goods store, three or four undertaking establishments, a few small grocery stores form the majority of the successful business enterprises owned by colored people. Of course there are quite a number of tailor shops and pressing clubs, ice cream parlors, barber shops and other small undertakings, but the colored citizens have not learned as largely as they should the lessons of thrift and enterprise.

Race Feeling the Best.

While there are hundreds of colored men and women out of employment in the city this summer, the labor possibilities for the colored man in Savannah are as good as in any other Georgia city. The Negro Employment Bureau has been busy finding or trying to find jobs for willing workers. The feeling between the races is the best. Colored mechanics and white mechanics may be seen any day of the week working side by side without friction. Every field is open to them and in fair seasons they should save much more than they do. One of the most inviting and lucrative lines of work is domestic service, especially for women.

There should be made a determined effort to hold this field by rendering the very best service. There is no doubt that the colored people realize this and are yearly improving their efficiency in this field. It is hoped that the domestic science or cooking department of the Georgia State College will help the situation much. There is every reason to expect that those young women who receive training at this school and enter this branch, laudable and lucrative field of domestic service will prove so acceptable that there will be no possibility of their places being taken by others. And, too, I have noticed with satisfaction how well and acceptably the young colored men and boys are filling the positions of porters, janitors, elevator men and chauffeurs. Then there are the barbers and hotel waiters. These are all good and honorable positions. There are no men in

the world who can do this work better than the competent colored men. As these workers become more efficient they will naturally be entitled to and get better wages.

There is no scarcity of labor in Savannah; in this respect Savannah has a bonanza for the business which will use this labor. What we need is the directive genius and capital which can put the idle labor to work.

The Juvenile Court.

There still remains for Savannah the important problem of proper management of the dependent, defective and delinquent portion of its 40,000 Negro population. Anyone who takes a casual view of our chaingang squads as they clean out the canals, etc., must be convinced that as object lessons they do not give a very thrilling inspiration for good citizenship and patriotism to the Negro. "How to handle the Negro criminal so as not to breed more criminals" might furnish food for thought for those in authority. The Juvenile Court is a splendid beginning.

All honor to Judge Charlton and to Judge Feidelson and others connected with this movement. The criminal question and the sanitary questions are the biggest questions for the Negro and the South. It is a nice thing to have good roads; it is a better thing to have good men and good free laborers.

Another improvement may be noted among the colored people is that whereas in 1913 they had dogs valued at \$775, now, in the year 1915, the Chatham Negro holdings in dogs amount to only \$155. In fact, this is the only decrease in their property holdings noted on the tax books. In the county they need less dogs, but more hogs, and chickens and cows.

The educational outlook in Chatham has been greatly improved by erection of the Cuyler street public school, one of the handsomest school buildings for colored people in the state. Through it there has been introduced into Negro public education industrial training. The effect of this must prove in every way wholesome.

Condition of Colored People Improved

There is a steady improvement in the social and moral condition of the colored people of this community. Of our many churches some of the pastors would do credit to any city or any people. They are intelligent, Christian, resourceful, helpful, interested more in the welfare of their people than in their own pockets. The Colored Carnegie Library is being taken hold of by the colored readers. The colored Y. M. C. A. is becoming a factor. The professional men are thirteen doctors, three dentists and four lawyers. These men all have fair practice.

The Chatham rural colored man is looking up. The rural Negro property consists of 5,750 acres of land with some improvements, all valued at \$495,424. There are thirty-one colored men who each own over thirty

acres of land and two who each own over 200 acres of land. I have visited some of these farms and find a few of them doing well. In fact, there has been more interest taken in the Negro farmer of this county this year than ever before. The Georgia State College farmers' conference has been hammering at the Negro farm problem in Chatham for years. It is the consensus of opinion that it has done much good. And lately the college has put in the field a farm demonstrator who has been able to get into a meeting at the college nearly every important Negro farmer in Chatham. As a result of the annual farmers' conferences held at the college, this farm demonstration work is having a telling effect upon the colored farmers of the county.

Georgia State College.

The people of Savannah are beginning to recognize the splendid service of the Georgia State College in this community. Notwithstanding the fact that the college is not a local but a state institution, it is openly admitted that the influence of the school for the uplift of the colored people of this community has been immense and wholesome. This should be the case. It is the desire and expectation of those in charge that the school should be of valuable service to the community. The school spends in the community about \$25,000 annually. It employs twenty-three instructors. It teaches agriculture, dairying, poultry raising, banding, domestic science, dressmaking and seven mechanical trades. Every student is given a trade or taught some branch of agriculture. With his trade each student is given a good common school education and to those who choose to stay longer a more advanced literary course is given. Over 500 students have been given certificates and over 200 both trade certificates and literary diplomas. A careful account is kept of each of these and the school records show that practically every one of our graduates is honorably and usefully employed.

The expenses at the Georgia State College are nominal. Tuition is free and \$6 will cover his monthly outlay for board and washing. A few industrious boys are able to earn their expenses by extra work at the college. It is gratifying to state that more and more of the colored youth of Savannah are taking advantage of this splendid institution at their doors.

In conclusion, we have no doubt that the white people of Savannah are pleased with the industrious, intelligent and law abiding colored people of Chatham county. Of these 856 have paid their poll tax. While many of them are putting money in their own saving institutions, the colored people have many thousands of dollars deposited in the savings departments of the white banks. These people have likely not less than \$200,000 deposited in the white banks of Savannah. All of their fire insurance

and practically all of their life insurance is placed with white companies. Counting these items with their labor, the 40,000 Negroes of Savannah should be looked upon as a valuable asset. They need encouragement, improvement in their sanitary condition, a careful investigation of the modes of punishment and care of their unfortunate criminals, play grounds for their children and sufficient and good schools. With these the Negro population of Savannah will prove to be the most prosperous, happy and contented in the state.

MORRELLS TURN DOWN LARGE SUM TO PUT RACE OUT

\$50,000 Offer Refused From Philadelphia Capitalists Who Offer Fortune for Jamestown Estate, but Colored Owners Spurn Money

WEST VIEW COTTAGE TO REMAIN COLORED HOME

Superior Beach Advantage of Famous Old Estate Owned by Colored Family—Envy of Cottagers Who Own Other Beaches

Newport, R. I., Sept. 28.—If the colored professional and business men and women and their families who have come here many years had been told that this would be their last summer spent at beautiful West View Cottage, Jamestown, R. I., they would have experienced a great sense of loss. Thanks to the unmercenary nature of Sergeant and Mrs. B. F. Morrell next summer will see the same people enjoying the hospitality of this garden spot.

It seems that each year Mr. and Mrs. Morrell have been importuned by the wealthy whites to take them as guests, assuring them of a full house and long season. To their entreaties Mr. and Mrs. Morrell have always turned a deaf ear and a silent mouth, so this year as the season closed they are offered the large sum of \$50,000 for the place.

The secret of the matter is that the

site owned by Mr. and Mrs. Morrell far exceeds in beauty that part of the island which contains the white hotels.

West View Cottage, owned by the Morrells, is built on the brow of a gently sloping hill, affording an unexcelled water view on three sides, and on the other it is surrounded by the homes and estates of the very rich. One of the great features which appeals to the white capitalists is the superb beach, about the only one on the island. This beach is made by the sea forming a bay just a short distance from the cottage. It is sandy and gently shelving, so that bathing is safe for even the most timid. Considering the fact that on the other side of the island where the white hotels are situated the guests bathe in still water filled with dangerous eel grass, it is no wonder they look with covetous eyes on the estate of the Morrells.

It is pleasant to contemplate that colored people have something desired by the rich and yet have such ample means of their own and also actuated by patriotic principles that they are not tempted. Mr. Morrells says that did he sell it would shut colored people out from the enjoyment as equals of the whites on the island and that he will not be a party to it.

DECLARE THE WIFE OF BISHOP TURNER ALREADY MARRIED

What promises to be a sensation that will command attention in every congregation of the National African Methodist Episcopal church is brewing in the Fulton courts, where a bitter battle is being waged over the will of Laura Lemon Turner, wife of the late Bishop H. M. Turner.

The charge that the bishop's wife unduly influenced him to bequeath his property to her, and that, at the time of his death, he was mentally incapacitated, were made in a caveat that was filed in the ordinary's office by relatives of the dead bishop.

The further charge that she was already married at the time of her wedding to Bishop Turner was made in a statement by J. G. Lankford, husband of Charlotte Josephine Lankford, a granddaughter of Bishop Turner, who promises to produce husband No. 1 to testify to this effect.

Judge George Bell has been petitioned by the Lankford woman and Bishop Turner's two sons, John Turner, a physician, of Washington, and David Turner, of Philadelphia, to restrain the heirs under the wife's will from disposing of the property until a hearing has been given on the caveat which seeks to annul the document.

It is charged that the heirs of this will have already sought to dispose of parts of the estate. They are Charles Jackson, a half-brother of Bishop Turner's wife; H. D. Lemon, another half-brother, and Cornelius King.

Bishop Turner died in June, leaving an estate value between \$85,000 and \$100,000, consisting of property at 30 Yong street, rated at \$30,000; a library, valued at \$10,000; elaborate furnishings, including three pianos and considerable silverware; property holdings in New Jersey; 90 acres of farm land in Cobb county and mining interests in Mexico. His wife died less

than a week ago. Bishop Turner was one of the south's most conspicuous negro welfare workers. He became famous years ago with a proposal to ship all negroes to Africa. He was 80 years old and had been married four times.

DesVERNEY'S ESTATE VALUED AT \$50,000

Bulk of Negro's Wealth Put in Trust for Wife and Children.

Edward E. DesVerney's will, disposing of an estate said to be valued at about \$50,000, was probated in solemn form in the Court of Ordinary Monday.

After making a few minor bequests the will directs that the estate be held in trust until all of the testator's children shall have reached the age of 21, at which time it is to be divided equally among the children and the testator's wife. In the meantime the income from the estate, after all of DesVerney's debts are paid and the special bequests made, will go toward the support of his wife and children.

Provision is made in the will that in case the wife remarries she shall forfeit her right to share in the estate. The will provides further that the children of the deceased are to be sent to the Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute, there "to learn some useful trade." All the testator's personal property is left to his wife.

To his cousin Mary W. Long, DesVerney bequeaths \$200; to his sister, Florida L. DesVerney, \$200; to the Charity Hospital and Training School \$30 per annum as long as Mary W. Long shall be connected with that institution as head nurse or matron.

The Chatham Bank and Trust Company is named as executor and trustee, and is relieved from the necessity of making an inventory. The will was executed on June 17, 1911.

LUTHER MANUEL BUYS \$120,000 BLOCK.

Twelve Year Old Boy Gets Rich City Block. Right in the Heart of Business District Where Everyone Passes.

Muskogee, Okla., Nov. 12.—Much interest was caused when in the financial circles it became known that Sever's block, located on Broadway, running from Main to Second street, went into the hands of Luther Manuel, a twelve-year old boy of the race. It is in the heart of the business district. The deal was put through by the guardian of Manuel. The building cost \$120,000 and the investment was sanctioned by Judge Leahy. Luther Manuel is a youngster whose income from oil lands left by his relatives reaches between \$25,000 and \$30,000 a month. Sever's block is in a locality where everybody passes.

LITIGATION OVER THE CHURCH WILL ENDED

MEMPHIS, Tenn., June 1.—The fight against the will of the late R. R. Church ended to-day, when the Supreme Court of Tennessee in a unanimous opinion handed down through Mr. Justice Fancher held that the will could not be attacked, and that those who had challenged it had no standing in court.

This means that the estate, one of the largest in this territory, left by a colored man without a cent of indebtedness against it, will be distributed as he directed, and in no other way, and that the widow, Mrs. Anna S. Church, executor, will be undisturbed as the agent of the lawful heirs.

The case attracted wide notice because of the size of the fortune involved and the prominence of the Church family, which has been in the courts about three years.

Laura Napier claimed to be a daughter of Mr. Church, and asked the right to attack the will. The Probate Court of Shelby county granted her petition. The Civil Court of Appeals of Tennessee reversed the Probate Court in a unanimous opinion through Justice Higgins, and dismissed the cause as without any virtue. The Supreme Court affirmed the Civil Court of Appeals, and set the reversal of the Probate Court aside for Laura Napier, the contestant. Luke Wright appeared, and ex-Gov. M. R. Patterson and S. M. Neeley, famous Memphis lawyers, represented the Church family.

The burden of the defense of the will has been borne by Robert R. Church, Jr., who acted for his family. The heirs are the widow, Mrs. Anna S. Church; Miss Annette E. Church, E. R. Church, Jr., Mrs. Mary Church Terrell, and Thomas A. Church.

NOTABLE RICH WOMAN PASSES AWAY.

Hagerstown, Md., Loses Valuable Citizen When Mrs. Mary M. Reeder Dies—Lives Ninety-One Years.

Hagerstown, Md., Oct. 22.—Mrs. Mary M. Reeder is dead. She is one of the most well-known residents of this city, as well as one of the wealthiest. General debility was given as the cause of her death and her age was given as 91. Mrs. Reeder has been failing in health for some time. She bought property on the west side of Potomac avenue sixty-five years ago and has lived there ever since. The value of the property has now grown to be worth six figures, as it is a valuable site. Many times she has received tempting offers but in each case has refused to sell. Besides the property on which she lived she owned eleven other homes in parts of the city. She was a consistent church member and lived a very exemplary life. She possessed rare business ability. Her mother was a free woman. Mrs. Reeder educated herself and children from the Bible.

Mrs. Reeder was the widow of Charles C. Reeder, who died 35 years ago.

She is survived by the following children: Mrs. Mary Hill and Mrs. Marian Harris, both of this city. Four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren also survive.

new york age 11/14/11

Property - 1915

COLORED GIRL HAS \$600 A DAY INCOME

Nashville Globe 11/12/15

RISING PRICE IN OIL CAUSES SARAH RECTOR'S INCOME TO INCREASE DAILY

Court-Fight As to The Girl's Guardian--She Owns Eighty Acres of Oil Land.

Oilton, Okla., Nov. 3.—The rising price of oil has boosted to \$600 a day the income of Sarah Rector, the 18-year-old colored girl, who owns one of the most valuable oil land allotments in the Oilton district, and whose immense profits in the past have attracted wide attention. The fight over the job of being her guardian also has been renewed in the courts.

Her tract of land is operated by B. B. Jones, millionaire oil man, who holds a lease negotiated by T. J. Porter, as the girl's guardian. Its production for October will be approximately 160,000 barrels and Sarah Rector will get one-eighth, or 20,000 barrels, which she has contracted to sell for 90 cents a barrel.

A recent decision of Federal Judge Campbell at Muskogee that the producer must pay the royalty in oil, if the owner so desires, has added 10c a barrel to the girl's income. Before that she had been getting royalty on only 80 cents the market price when handled through an operator. But now, owing to the great demand for oil, she sells it independently at a premium of 10 cents a barrel.

The Sarah Rector allotment has been a good revenue producer since it was first opened about two years ago. The girl has received from her land in royalty approximately \$60,000 in cash up to May of this year, and on that date her royalty oil had accumulated during the previous four months was sold at the then market price of 40 cents a barrel, netting her an additional \$65,000.

The land reached its high tide in production during the spring of this year. It was estimated to be making 20,000 barrels a day during April,

or 600,000 barrels for the month, of which the girl's share was 75,000 barrels, but her income proportionately less than now because of the low price.

Much of Sarah Rector's money has been invested in farm lands and Muskogee city property, through her guardian. A short time ago a suit to annul the lease held by B. B. Jones on her oil land was instituted by E. C. Sweeney, of the Commercial National Bank of Muskogee County Court, to recover \$1,570,000 from B. B. Jones, illegally appointed guardian. In the same petition he asked to have T. J. Porter removed as her guardian and himself appointed to act for her and her sister and brother, who also own valuable allotments. The county court denied his petition.

Sweeney's attorney then filed suit in the Muskogee County Court to recover \$1,250,000 was specified as the proceeds of the oil sold by Jones and \$320,000 as the bonus the girl could have obtained had she been free from the Jones lease. The case has not been decided.

The Sarah Rector allotment is a fractional 80-acre tract lying along the Cimarron River. It is very rough and hilly and has no value for agricultural purposes.

VIRGINIA CITIZENS

PAY BIG TAXES

Special to Chicago Defender.

Hampton, Va., July 23.—The Afro-American of Virginia pay taxes on real and personal property to the amount of \$34,743.56. They pay taxes on personal property and real estate in the city of Richmond to the amount of \$3,480,662. At the close of the Civil War they were practically penniless.

Because of a late ruling of the court this amounted to about \$15,000 a year for the owner of an month. oil lease is forced to turn over to the lessee the royalty oil instead of where the accumulation of royalty its equivalent, Sarah Rector, the rich was sold to B. B. Jones, it was estimated that the Rector land would yield to its owner anywhere from \$100,000 to \$125,000 in royalty during the succeeding four months, and it was formerly.

Six hundred dollars a day was her said that the tract would be a big income from one of the most valuable money maker for her for many years oil land allotments in the entire Oil ton district. Her tract of land, which is operated by B. B. Jones, millionaire oil man, is now producing in the neighborhood of 160,000 barrels of crude oil a month. For her share, one-eighth, or 20,000 barrels a month, she was getting 90 cents a barrel, or a total of \$18,000 a month, giving her a daily income from her royalties of \$600.

An additional ten cents a barrel premium for her oil was obtained through a decision by Federal Judge Campbell of Muskogee, holding that an oil company operating a tract of land must pay the royalty in oil instead of money if the landowner demands it. The market price for oil is 80 cents, but a premium is being offered for oil as the demand is now greater than the supply. By demanding the payment of the royalty in oil Sarah Rector has sold her oil to the Pierce Oil corporation for 90 cents a barrel, or an increase of \$2,000 a month, or \$66 a day. The deal was made for her through her guardian, T. J. Porter. The Sarah Rector allotment has always been a good revenue producer. It has been producing oil for about two years. She has received from her land in royalty approximately \$60,000 in cash up to May 1 of this year, and on that date her royalty oil that had accumulated during the previous four months was said at the then market price, 40 cents a barrel, netting her an additional \$65,000, or a total of \$125,000.

The sale at that time was made to B. B. Jones, the operator of the land, and the contract was continued in force to sell the royalty oil as it accumulated subject to termination at ten days' notice. The Sarah Rector land reached its high tide in production during the spring of this year. It was estimated to be making 20,000 barrels a day during April or 600,000 barrels for the month, of which the little girl's share was 75,000 barrels. For February the Rector production from the deep sand or Bartlesville was 300,000 barrels, and for March it was 325,000 barrels. During the spring months it was the biggest producing property in the field. Prior to getting the deep sand production the Rector land produced oil from the Layton or shallower sand, and during the last months of 1913

received 30,000 for 75,000 barrels.

With the recent increase in the price of crude oil, going to 80 cents a barrel from 40 cents within a six weeks' period, and with the federal court decision separating the royalty from that of the producing company, the income of Sarah Rector began again to increase, and for October she received approximately 18,000 in royalty for her 20,000 barrels, while for April she received 30,000 for 75,000 barrels.

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MUSKOGEE.

MANY ATTEND MUSKOGEE NEGRO FAIR—PRESIDENT OF LANGSTON UNIVERSITY REPORTED REMOVED—\$120,000 LAND DEAL BY PRAIRIE OIL & GAS CO.—MARRIAGES, EDUCATIONAL AND OTHER NOTES OF INTEREST.

Muskogee, Okla., Sept. 8.—The great Muskogee County Negro Fairtime income. and Art Exhibition is the attraction in Muskogee this week and several thousand people from various parts of the county are in attendance. Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Lewis are celebrating the arrival of a 10 pound baby girl; mother and baby doing well.

News has been received here that Prof. Inman E. Page, who has been the active president of Langston University, has been removed by the Democratic political machine. This report came as a great shock to a host of his many friends. Mr. Ever R. Brown and Mrs. Nora Bradley have sold the old famous Chaney cafe for the consideration of \$500. Mr. George Davis, proprietor of the People's Undertaking Co., sold 300 acres of oil land near the town of Muskogee to the Prairie Oil & Gas Co. for the sum of \$120,000. The deal was made through Lawyer A. L. J. Merrithers and Hon. D. A. Lee of Boynton, Okla. Lawyer J. H. Lilly, one of our regular attorneys, who was recently appointed as president of the State Reform School at McAlester, Okla., will leave Oct. 1st to take up his work. Miss Ethel Russell, a recent graduate of the public high school of this city, made a third grade certificate at the recent normal held here. Mr. George White has purchased the Everybody cafe for the consideration of \$350. The city schools will open about Sept. 15th. The three colored schools will employ more than 40 teachers. Mr. Ferdenz Williams has returned to his home at

Corsicana, Texas. Miss Berta L. Vaughns, one of the teachers of high school, was recently married last Monday night at Chattanooga, Tenn., to Mr. Harry L. Odem of the latter city. Miss Della Stone, a recent graduate of the high school of this city, has been appointed to teach in one of the city schools at Gasville, Okla. Dr. W. M. Simms has purchased a swell brick building on South 3rd street for the consideration of \$10,000 and has moved his office in the same. Miss Essie Mae Bridges has returned from a week's visit to Claremore, Okla. Mr. Ever R. Brown, who has been an active citizen in Muskogee for a number of years, has returned to his old home at Bonham, Texas. Mr. B. G. Glover has purchased the old Fite livery barn in Times alley, and has remodeled the same. He plans to enter the real estate business. Travelers who enter Muskogee will do well to stop at Simmons drug store, the leading drug store in Eastern Oklahoma.

DR. FRANK C. CAFFEY BUYS ANOTHER HOUSE

Dr. Frank C. Caffey, of Montgomery, Ala. has, by his recent purchase of the five-story apartment house at 151 West 133rd street, added another income property to his New York holdings.

Dr. Caffey contemplates, at some future date, retiring from active practice and making New York City his home. With this in view, and in accordance with his well known business acumen, he is from time to time acquiring properties in this city of a character calculated to afford a lucrative income. Dr. Caffey and wife, with Frank C. Caffey, Jr., have for years made a practice of spending the major portion of their summer in New York City and its environs. Dr. Caffey is almost as well known in New York as in his native city.

RICH INVESTMENTS FOR NEGRO CHILDREN

Special to THE NEW YORK AGE. MUSKOGEE, OKLA., Oct. 20.—Much interest has been excited by the announcement that the Sever's block, located on Broadway, running from Main to Second streets, the most prominent business location in the city, has been purchased for Luther Manuel, a little 12-year-old Negro boy, by his white guardian, at a cost of \$120,000. The investment was sanctioned by Judge Leahy.

Luther Manuel is a youngster whose income from oil lands is piling in at the rate of \$25,000 to \$30,000 a month.

A similar investment was made for Sarah Rector, 18 years old, who has been called the richest Negro child in the world. The Fike apartment and business block, South Second street, was bought for her for \$57,000. This is in a Negro section, but Sever's block is in a locality where everything and everybody passes.

April 1915

Lemuel Googins, Negro, Leaves \$200,000 Estate

The will of Lemuel Googins, one of the most widely known negro residents of Pittsburgh, who died recently, was filed for probate yesterday, disposed of an estate said to be worth about \$200,000. Letters testamentary were issued to the Colonial Trust Company, executor and trustee.

The will bequeaths \$1,000 to the Colored Masonic Home to furnish two rooms in memory of the late Florence Googins, a daughter. The residue of the estate is placed in trust, the income to be paid to Henrietta Googins, the widow, as long as she lives. At her death the estate goes to Granville Googins and Lemuel Googins, Jr., sons.

When letters testamentary were issued, the trust company gave a general estimate of the value of the estate at \$145,000 in personal property and \$40,000 in real estate.

CHICAGOANS BUY MUCH

MICHIGAN PROPERTY

CHICAGO, Ill., March 2.—Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Miller, 159 Chestnut street, who recently purchased a large farm in Michigan, last week closed a cash deal for twelve lots in the heart of the city of Roscommon, Mich., a few miles from their farm. They are arranging to move to the farm about the first of June.

With the acquisition of this plot of twelve lots, they are now in control of some of the most valuable property in northern Michigan. Mrs. Miller for some years has conducted one of the largest dressmaking establishments in the city and is one of the leading members of the North Side Women's Club.

LITTLE NEGRO GIRL RICH

Discovery of Oil in Oklahoma Gives Child \$10,000 a Month.

The American Magazine publishes in its "Interesting People" department a sketch and picture of Sarah Rector, ten years old, a negro girl, living in Oklahoma, who now has an income of at least \$10,000 a month. The discovery of oil raised her from poverty to riches. Following is an extract from the article:

"Only through a colorful length of history has Sarah's fortune been made possible to Sarah. It is really a story centuries long. Away back in mystery-shrouded years a dark-skinned tribe fled from invaders on our eastern shores. Southward they journeyed, and finally entrenched themselves in Florida. 'Seminoles' they were called

then, 'the runaways,' because they had separated from their own tribes of Creeks and Muskogees. As years went on they dominated the people about them; they conquered many, enslaved more. Still later, other Indians and negroes, slaves and tribal brothers, joined them from Alabama and Georgia, and presently they owned a trick of towns on streams. Near Tallahassee was their capital. Today, in Oklahoma, we know them as one of the Five Civilized Nations.

"By the treaty of 1866 former slaves were adopted into the tribe as citizens. And so, when the government allotment of lands was made a few years ago, Sarah Rector, child of a Greek freedman, was entitled to her one hundred and sixty acres. In August, 1913, oil was discovered in Greek county and a well was drilled on Sarah's land, then another and another, and now her story becomes a series of amazing statistics. Today Sarah is one of the richest persons in Oklahoma."

Montgomery Bell, of Las Vegas, N. M., who recently died in that city, was said to have been worth \$250,000. At his funeral all of the pallbearers were white, the first time such a thing had occurred in the history of the state. In fact there has been but few such cases in the country. He made his money in common pursuits, and which he invested, finally becoming a silent partner in the People's Trust Co., of Las Vegas. His money talked, and as it will in most places. Money is not all life, but it is a very considerable part of it. These white pallbearers had great respect for Mr. Montgomery Bell.

VIRGINIA NEGROES PAY

\$34,743,656 IN TAXES

RICHMOND, VA., July 20.—The colored people of Richmond, Va., most of whom were actually penniless at the close of the Civil War, are assessed for taxes on personal property and real estate in this city to the amount of \$3,180,662.

In the entire State of Virginia colored people pay taxes on real and personal property to the amount of \$34,143,656.

NEGRO LEFT FORTUNE.

"Dolly" Hughes of Hempstead Left \$100,000 Estate.

By Associated Press.

Houston, Oct. 6.—An inventory of the estate of "Dolly" Hughes, negro, who died recently at Hempstead, reveals property worth more than \$100,000. Hughes, though uneducated, was one of the wealthiest residents of that section.

Houston, Tex.

Chronicle

NEGRO'S ESTATE WORTH \$100,000

Hempstead, Texas, Oct. 6.—During this term of district court the will of the late "Dolly" Hughes will be probated. His estate is valued at more than \$100,000 and consists of real estate, cattle and cash.

"Dolly" Hughes was a negro of unusual saving ability, and, though uneducated, was considered a good citizen of this county, and many times had accommodated his white friends by loaning them cash.

"Sarah Rector, the little Negro girl whose allotment is producing 12,000 barrels of crude oil a day, is in hard straits, because of an overproduction in the oil fields. At thirty-five cents a barrel, her income would be \$188,000 a year, but inasmuch as about half her oil is going into storage, Sarah is compelled to eke out her existence on \$94,000 a year. The problem of living in Oklahoma is beset by many difficulties."

Sarah is, at present, a student at Tuskegee Institute, and those who have her vast interest in charge will, no doubt, keep her in school until she finishes her education.

The many papers are giving Luther Manuel and Sarah Rector credit for purchasing the blocks in the very heart of the city of Muskogee, Okla. These youths have no say so at all in the matter. It is the manner in which their white guardians are disposing of the enormous wealth of their wards. We are up on this matter and know the conditions. It is simply one white friend saving another by paying extortionate prices out of Negro money.

Herman Gahan, a young colored man of Philadelphia, Pa., received as a legacy the late Mrs. Lousia Smoot, a wealthy white woman of Milford, Delaware, who reared him from childhood to manhood, \$10,000 in cash and a handsome residence.

Mrs. Alfred Robert, a colored woman, is said to be the only female graduate pharmacist in the state of Indiana.

HAGERSTOWN, Md., Oct. 6.—Mary Jane Reeder, probably the wealthiest colored woman in Maryland, died here, aged 91 years. She owned property valued at about \$40,000.

Her home was on the finest residential street in the city.

Colored Woman Left \$50,000

HAGERSTOWN, Md., Oct. 15.—The will of Mrs. Mary M. Reeder, former wealthiest colored woman in western Maryland, who died recently soon after a jury adjudged her mentally incompetent to attend to her affairs, was probated today. Her estate is valued at \$50,000.

Negro Dies Leaving \$75,000 Estate

HAGERSTOWN, Md., Feb. 16.—Walter Harmon, the wealthiest negro in Washington county, died here today suddenly of heart disease. He owned a hotel and thirty-seven houses in Hagerstown and his estate is valued at \$75,000. At one time he was a Pullman porter.

WEALTHY COLORED

WOMAN DEAD AT 91

Special to THE NEW YORK AGE.

HAGERSTOWN, Md., Oct. 6.—Mrs. Mary Jane Reeder, probably the wealthiest and one of the oldest colored women in Maryland, died here today, at her ninety-first year. She owned property valued at about \$40,000. Her home was on Potomac street, the finest residential street in the city.